



# Brownfields 2009 Grant Fact Sheet

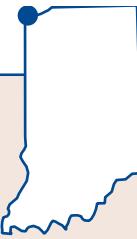
## Gary, IN

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The City of Gary was selected to receive a job training grant. Gary (population 102,746) is located in northwest Indiana, approximately 25 miles from downtown Chicago. Over the last 30 years, the city has lost jobs, population, and businesses, resulting in the creation of



### Job Training Grant

**\$200,000**

EPA has selected the City of Gary for a job training grant. The city plans to train up to 75 students, graduate a minimum of 60 trainees, place at least 65 percent of graduates in environmental jobs, and track graduates for at least one year. The training program will consist of three 12-week, 263-hour training cycles and three refresher courses. Courses will include HAZWOPER and OSHA 10 training, lead and asbestos abatement certification, energy audit and green building training, and natural resource and native plant landscaping management. Primary training will be conducted by selected contractors with knowledge of the city's job environment, environmental justice concerns, and natural resource management practices. Students will be recruited from unemployed and underemployed city residents. The city will work with local industries, union apprentice programs, and environmental companies to place graduates in environmental jobs.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

Linda Morgan, EPA Region 5

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<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Gary, IN

219-882-3000

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

hundreds of brownfields. These brownfields include former industrial sites, abandoned commercial and residential properties, and scores of abandoned gas stations. The loss of tax revenues has critically impacted the city's economy. African-Americans make up 84 percent of city residents, and approximately 34 percent of this population lives below the poverty level. The city is home to a federally designated Empowerment Zone. The cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields have been recognized as key factors in the revitalization of Gary. Based on recent labor market studies, employment opportunities for construction laborers are expected to grow in the area through 2012, fueled in part by a continued emphasis on environmental remediation and on rebuilding the city's infrastructure. In addition, the use of solar and renewable energy is expected to double over the next few years.